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February 25A, 2003

EX PARTE

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 03-11 - Application by Qwest
Communications International Inc. for Authority to
Provide In-Region InterLATA Services in New
Mexico, Oregon and South Dakota**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Monday, February 24, representatives of Qwest met with FCC staff to discuss the Frederick Poll. Keith Frederick, John Munn, Melissa Newman, Dave Teitzel and I represented Qwest; William Dever, Kim Cook and Pam Megna represented the FCC.

During the meeting, Qwest was asked why Question Number 3 in the first part of the survey was worded the way that it is. Qwest provides this written explanation in response to the Commission request. As we discussed at the meeting, Question Number 3 utilizes a standard industry technique of describing a condition or behavior to a phone respondent and then asking if that condition applies to them. The question is comprised of two sentences followed by a question. The first sentence states "[S]ome Cricket customers might decide that Cricket service does away with the need to have traditional wire line phone service in their home." That statement is followed by a concrete action stating "[A]s a result, they terminate their wire line phone services from the local phone company." Qwest then asked "Does this apply to you?" Asking respondents "Does this apply to you?" is the same as saying "some people might work in an office, does this apply to you?"

As we discussed, Qwest utilized this format for two primary reasons. First, Qwest used this format in an attempt to avoid respondent terminations by avoiding wording that could be interpreted as a sales or telemarketing call. Survey researchers are increasingly sensitive to the bombardment of phone

users by telemarketers and sales calls. With mobile phone users, we felt the need for caution to avoid questions that could be construed as set ups for a sales pitch. Therefore, the decision was made to write questions related to the possible ways Cricket users could substitute for wire line service in a way that would clearly communicate to respondents that the true nature of our call was in fact survey research. Obviously with a roughly 50% completion rate (1941 completed interviews out of 3764 working numbers), the question methodology successfully minimized terminations by the respondents.

Second, Qwest used this format to avoid any concerns with leading the respondent to an affirmative answer. The use of the phrase “some Cricket customers might decide...” was intentionally used to avoid creating a possible “bandwagon effect” where the respondent felt the correct way to answer was in the affirmative. The inclusion of this language allows the respondent to feel it is acceptable to not engage in that behavior. Thus, we feel this question construct is not only the best way to ask the question but also a conservative way to ask it. To use the alternative language, such as “some Cricket customers decide ... to terminate...” would invite criticism that the survey wording was designed to create a “bandwagon effect” of “positive-response bias” where the respondent would feel awkward not admitting to doing what other Cricket customers were purported to be doing. Qwest believes that the wording used presents the proposition tested (home wire line substitution) in a clear, neutral and understandable format.

Additionally, Qwest provides a signature page for the [Corrected] Direct Testimony of Keith Frederick (“Frederick Direct”). Mr. Frederick’s Direct Testimony was originally filed in the New Mexico proceeding on April 16, 2002 with a signed signature page. On May 10, 2002, a corrected version of the testimony was filed as the Frederick Direct and the signature page was omitted from the filing. This is the same testimony that is Exhibit DLT-Track A/PI-NM-5 attached to the January 15, 2003 Declaration of David L. Teitzel filed in this proceeding. The Frederick Direct was adopted by Mr. Frederick as his sworn testimony from the witness stand in the New Mexico proceeding on June 10, 2002.¹ You asked us to submit a signature page for the Frederick Direct and the attached document complies with your request.

¹ Qwest IV, Att. 5, App. K, NM Tab 1265, p. 46 lines 1-11.

The twenty-page limit does not apply to this submission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hamee Haney

cc: K. Cook
W. Dever
G. Remondino
J. Myles
K. Brown
R. Harsch
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